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Am" about twenty-three times in the gospel of John. Each time He said

- "I Am" He was declaring His eternal, divine nature.
- "I Am the bread of life" (6:35, 41, 48, 51).
- "I Am the light of the world" (8:12).
- "I Am the door of the sheep" (10:7, 9).
- "I Am the good shepherd" (10:11, 14).
- "I Am the resurrection and the life" (11:25).
- "I Am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6).
- "I Am the true vine" (15:1, 5).

#### John at a glance:

- **Part 1:** Jesus, the incarnate Son of God (ch. 1-4).
- **Part 2:** The Son of God is rejected (ch. 5-12).
- **Part 3:** Jesus' last days with His apostles (ch. 13-17).
- **Part 4:** Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection (ch. 18-21).

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Note: The preceding is a clip from my notes on the summary of the Bible. The book is now written and I am editing it. It is coming soon.



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## *The Gospel of John*

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### **The unique gospel**

The gospel of John is unique among all of the four gospels. For one thing, the synoptic gospels were each aimed at specific audiences: *Matthew* was written to the Jews, *Mark* to the Romans, and *Luke* to the Greeks, but *John* was not. John aimed his material at all who needed to believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

For another thing, John did not follow the same pattern as the other gospel writers, recording travels, events, and sermons by the score. Instead, John only records a limited number of sermons and miracles of Jesus. It is clear from John's own words that his material does not include the sum of all that Jesus said or did, but what he did record was written because these miracles were sufficient to produce faith:

*"And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen" (John 21:25). "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30-31).*

John's main purpose was to prove the deity of Jesus. The book begins with an open declaration that Jesus is God (John 1:1), and that He dwelt among us (1:14). Then, middle way through the book, John records the prayer of Jesus in which He asked the Father to glorify Him with the glory He

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Worship 6:00 p.m.

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once enjoyed in the presence of the Father (John 17:5).

The miracles that Jesus performed began late in His life at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee (2:11), and then each successive miracle was conducted by Jesus in a deliberate manner for their impact in proving His divinity. In fact, before Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, he prayed these words: *"Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me"* (John 11:41-42).

Jesus made numerous statements to the effect that He was and is God's Son. This annoyed the Jews greatly, because they viewed such a declaration to be blasphemy (John 5:18; 10:33). Yet, Jesus never bowed to their threats or pressure, openly declaring Himself to be the Son of God: *"Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel"* (John 5:19-20). In fact, his declaration that He was the Son of God could not have been more blunt: *"I and My*

*Father are one"* (10:30).

#### Author and date

The writer of this gospel is John the apostle. He was the brother of James, who together were known as the *"sons of thunder"* (Mark 3:17). What John wrote was by inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21), but John had the added advantage of being an eyewitness to the teachings of the Lord about which he wrote. John, along with Peter and James were often with the Lord in private settings where the other apostles were not (Mark 5:37; 9:2; 14:33). Hence, he often referred to himself as *"the disciple whom Jesus loved"* (John 19:26; 20:2; 21:7; 21:20).

John also wrote the Book of Revelation while in exile on the isle of Patmos (John 1:9). John died around 96-98 A.D., so the gospel of John was written sometime near the end of the first century, probably around 90 A.D.

#### The Miracles of Jesus.

A miracle occurs when God intervenes in the affairs of men to suspend natural law. The miracles which are recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, but not in John are not less miraculous than these. However, with each of these things, there were many

observers who could verify that what occurred was outside of the realm of what could happen in nature. In other words, each of these miracles left no doubt that Jesus had power over nature.

- Jesus turned water to wine (2:1-11).
- Jesus healed the nobleman's son (4:43-54).
- Jesus healed a paralytic (5:1-14).
- Jesus fed a multitude of five thousand men (6:1-14).
- Jesus walked on the sea (6:15-21).
- Jesus restored the sight of a blind man (9:1-7).
- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (11:1-44).
- Jesus produced a miraculous catch of fish (21:1-14).

#### Sermons of Jesus.

The sermons of Jesus emphasize His deity by showing that He is the source of all power and eternal life.

- The night time conversion of

Nicodemus (3:1-21).

- The Samaritan woman talks with Jesus at the well (4:1-30).
- Jesus, the Son of God, is the source of eternal life (5:19-47).
- Jesus, the bread of life (6:26-59).
- Jesus, the source of truth (7:14-29).
- Jesus, the light of the world (8:12-20).
- Jesus, the object of faith (8:21-30).
- Jesus, the source of freedom from sin (8:31-59).
- Jesus, the good shepherd (10:1-21).
- Jesus, the member of the Godhead (10:22-38).
- Jesus came to save the world (12:20-36).
- Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:1-6).

**The "I Am" Statements of Jesus.** Jesus used the phrase "I